

Gods Eye from H E A V E N.



Isa. 14. v. 2, 3. *The Lord looked down from heaven upon the Children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are altogether become filthy, there is none doeth good, no not one.*

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Gods Eye from Heaven.

Beloved Countrymen. I have once
more presumed to present to your
view. this small Book. entitled,
Gods Eye from Heaven, & I would
desire all you that do acknowledge there
is a God, whose all-seeing eye is all over
the sons and daughters of men, to give at-
tentive ear to this Book, for it concerns
the highest as well as the lowest to con-
sider what you do here upon Earth, for the
Lord sees all your Actions, be they done
never so private, he will one day bring
them to light, he hath not only an eye into
your secret closets, and close rooms, but
he likewise sees your close and dark
Actions, that are committed in your secret
hearts: but I need not press this belief
to any that profess the name of Christi-
ans; but let them tell the Atheists of these
times that there is a God that sees, though
he suffers there heresies & blasphemies:
the fool hath said in his hearts (saith Da-
vid) there is no God, and so be they: how
many be there of such Opinions now in
these latter Times, that will seek to

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maintain such blasphemy by discourse and are counted by such of there own wicked bellish Opinion. not fools as David calls them but wiss : But all wisdom that cometh not from above, is foolishness : Solomon saith, A companion of Fools shal be destroyed : Therefore it behoves all Christians. (that desire the knowledge and Wisdom of God) to have a special care both their Company themselves with such Enemies of G D, for fear the Lord should leave you to your selves, and so you be drayn away by there wicked Devils, to the utter Destruction of your Souls and Bodies. The Lord looked down from Heaven, upon the Children of Men, to see if there were any that would understand and seek God; all are gone out of the way, they are all corrupt, there is none that doth good, no not one, Psal. 14. A sad expreſſion delivered by the Spirit of God, by the mouth of his Prophet David, in his time: And do you not think that the Lord looketh down from Heaven now upon the children of this Age; that his Spirit may not send forth the like Voice amongſt us all? I am afraid, if not all, yet the most of us are gone out of by ways

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way, that he prescribed us to follow, and are too much addicted to follow our own ways; and think in our own eyes they are good ways, when there is none amongst us that both God, no not one, St. paul tells us the same, Rom. 3. 10. there is none righteous, no not one. Now St. paul speaketh this of all men naturally, but David meaneth of the Reprobate and unfaithful, which none can discern and see the difference between, but the Lord: for all lyeth hidden in our hearts. What the Lord saith by the mouth of his Prophet, Jer. 17. 9. 10. The heart is deceitful & wicked above all things, who can know it? I the Lord searcheth the heart, and tryeth the reins, even to every man, according to his ways, & according to the fruits of his works. This may serve for a Reproof for those that separate themselves, and think none so Righteous as themselves, they be such as the Lord speaks of by the Prophet. Isaiah 6. ver. 5. Which say to there brethren Stand apart, come not near me, I am Holier then thou: these are a smoak in my wrath and a fire that burneth all the day, saith the Lord. May not the Lord brand such as these with Hypocritie? Yea, for the

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Apostle

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Apostle saith in the Epistle of Jam. 2. 18
Shew me thy Faith by thy works: so I
would haue these men shew there Reli-
gion by there fruits, for you must be such
as the Apostle Peter saith in his first E-
pistle, Chapter 2. You must lay aside all ma-
liciousness, and all guile, and dissimulation,
and envy, and all evil speaking; ~~May~~ read
all that Book ouer, and you shall quickly
find whether you are such as you make
shew for: else may read the 2 of Peter 2.
and see whether you are not such as the
Apostle mentions there? else St. Paul to
the Galathians chap. 5. which if you read
you shall see the Apostle tells the Galathi-
ans the fruits of the Spirit, and the
fruits of the flesh. I desire you, and all
those that hear or read this Book, to read
these places of Scripture that are here
mentioned, which are too long to write in
this small volume, then shall you find in
your selues, whether you haue a Spirit of
God or a Spirit of deuotion, for if you will
not look into your own ways; Gods eye,
which cleaerly sees what you are, will shew
to his people, what difference there is be-
tween true Zeal and outward Hypocrisie,
for if any man seem to himself that he is
some-

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ſomewhat when he is nothing, he deſcribeth himſelf in his own Imagination, Gal. 6 3. He that profeſſes himſelf to be religious, profeſſes he labors you in your face, & hang you behind your back: go to hear Sermons on purpoſe, to pick a hole in the Miniſters Coat: inſtead of relieving the Poor, eat up the Poor: ye hate Drunkenneſs, but love Caruſouſes: you will not hear an Oath, becauſe you will be counted Holy; yet will not ſtick to tell a Lye in your dealing, for your own benefit, that will giue fair words in your buying and ſelling, when your thoughts pretend Conzening and Cheating; and ſo uſe Religion as many a man doth a fair ſuit to hide a foul ſkin. Our Saviour deſcribes you Hypocrites by the ſcribes & Pharifees, for juſt ſuch were in his time: Pray read the 23 of Math. and you ſhall ſee how near they came to the Pharifees: of our times: too many ſuch here in this Land there be, but Gods eye from Heaven doth all there actions ſee. I muſt tell you, and you ſhall ſee, That the eye of God is upon all the Actions of men on earth, from King to the begger, he hath an eye in the Palace, and an eye in the

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Cottage, in the High Courts and Councils, he hath an eye thereto, and ether guides there Actions for there presentations, or else suffers there unjust dealings, till it brings them to there Desolations: He hath a gracious Eye over his People in there prosperity, and hath a merciful eye over them in there greatest captivity; but we must be stedfast in our faith then, and let not prosperity puff us up with security, or captivity make us despair of ever obtaining our Liberty: for a true Christian hath always three Enemies to deal withal, the World, the flesh, and the Devil; and these three seek all opportunities to lay hold & conquer. But God sees his Battel with his eye of providence from Heaven, and so cheers up the Resolutions of his Soldiers, that though the Battel be long, and a continual Warfare here on Earth, yet they shall not faint, but shall hold out to the end, and shall obtain there reward: therefore let us not be dismay'd whatever befalls us here, we shall be rewarded hereafter: If we will be Christs Disciples, we must take up his Cross and follow him: if we were not willing to partake of his sufferings here.

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we are not fit to partake of his Benefits hereafter. The Church and People of God, hath been always in Trouble and persecution, ever since Christ and his Apostles time; they Sealed the Gospel with their Blood : and many, since the primitive times, sign to it with the same by persecutions: And likewise the Martyrs in Queen Maries time, and so must all if the Lord be pleased to call us to it, but the Lord be thanked, as yet we do enjoy the Gospel in peace, though we have had many Enemies which seek to blast it : but this Eye of Heaven saw their Determinations, and quickly brought their Counsels to nought : Many are the troubles of the Righteous, but the Lord will deliver them out of all, Psal. 34. Through much Tribulation, we must enter into the Kingdom of God, Acts 14. 22. Examples there are many, both in the Old Testament and the New, but especially since the Preaching of the Gospel: Christ the best Preacher that ever was, he was derided by the Pharisees, when he told them of their Covetousness : Saint Paul the famousst Preacher that ever was, next our Saviour; he was counted a Babler and obstinate

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last fellow: the Ministers in the Land
now are counted no other by some: nay
if Christ & his Apostles were on Earth
now, they should find the like now, and
wonder: But this was, is, and must be the
condition of his Church upon Earth, an
afflicted condition. When God was ma-
king his Covenant with Abraham, Gen.
15. 12. A deep sleep fell upon him, and lo,
a horror of great Darkness was upon him, a
smoking furnace, and a burning Lamp passed
between his Sacrifice: And the Lord tells
him of the Bondage of his Seed in E-
gypt, for the Encouragement of those
that will part with any thing for Christ,
when their Persecution is increased:
Christ tells his Disciples in Mark, chap.
10. vers 29. 30. There is no man that hath
left House, or Brethren, or Sister, or Father,
or Mother, or Wife, or Children, or Lands, for
my sake or the Gospels, but he shall receive an
hundred fold, &ete the words with Per-
secutions too, that comes in amongst all
these great things that are these Promi-
ses: Mr. Hooper, the holy Martyr, had in
his arms, when he was made Bishop of
Worcester, a man in a flaming bath, with
raies of the Sun from heaven shining up-
on

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on it: A Lamb for meekness in a bush,
burning amongst wicked men who are as
brazambles and thorns, burning with ma-
lice, and yet the comfortable light of hea-
ven shining upon it: Mr. Bradford writing
to the Town of Walden, to Encourage
them to suffer, saith that the Christian
hath not learned his A. B. C. in Christia-
nity, who hath not learn'd the letter of the
Cross: And Luther calls a Christian a
Cross-bearer; They that will live Godly,
must suffer Persecution, 2 Tim. c. 3. v. 12.
A Reed that yields, is not shattered with
the wind; so those, who will be Time-
servers, whose Consciences will bow any
way, these shall not suffer great matters:
Beloved (saith the Apostle) think it not
strange, concerning the fiery Tryals, 1 Pet. 4.
12. Look over the whole book of God, both
the Old and New Testament, and consi-
der the lives of Gods people. and you shall
find them usually in a poor afflicted condi-
tion. Noahs Ark upon the Water, was
a type of the conditions of the Church in
Afflictions. What hard things did Abra-
ham & the Patriarchs endure in their ge-
nerations? how sore was the bondage of
Israel in Egypt? the passage through the
red

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red Sea, and the dismal Wilderness to Canaan, that was a Type of our afflicted condition in after ages: what hard usage did the Prophets of the Lord find? Elijah must live for his life with 400 false Prophets was fed at Jezebels Table. Isaiah was sawn asunder. Jeremiah was stoned to death in Egypt. Ez-kiel was slain in Babylon. Micah had his neck broken down a steep place. Amos had his Brains knocked out. The persecutions of the Macabees, the Apostle tells you, Hebrews 11. How they were tortured, mocked, scourged, imprisoned, stoned, sawn asunder, slain with the Sword, wandered up and down in Sheep-skins and Goat-skins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented, wandering in Deserts, Mountains, Dens, and Caves to the Earth, and also for the Christian Church, we know what Christ himself, the great leader of his people, suffered contempts, miseries, scorn, scourges, cruel shameful death, When Stephen, first Christian Martyr, was stoned, Dorotheus witnesseth, that 2000 of these that belived in Christ were put to Death the same day. All the 12 Apostles, after many sore and grievous afflictions

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afflictions endured, suffered many violent deaths, John only excepted: yet some Historians make mention he was thrown into a Furnace scalding Lead, yet delivered by a miracle. The ten fearful persecutions in the primitive time, for 300 years together, the name of a Christian, was death. Brigheman, speaking of the torments of those times, saith, that every page and leaf, is as it were, all red colored with blood: The Covenant of grace is a bloody Covenant, both in regard of the blood of Christ in first sealing of it, & the blood of the Martyrs; adding likewise their seals in confirming it; 1 John 5. v. 8. Three bear witness on Earth, the Spirit, water, & Blood. The third is applyed to the Blood of the Martyrs, in those times, I read of one Sincerus, of whome such intollerable torments were afflicted, that they thought to have had some Blasphemy proceed from him: yet they could not get nothing but this, Sum Christianus; I am a Christian: at which his Persecutors being mad, they clapt on plates of Brass red hot, to the most tender parts of his Body, which though his body yet his spirit continued constant; they set him upon an iron chair
red

red hot; and being a whole Day made a
spectable to the people, they could get ne-
thing but his first Confession, I am a
Christian: And many more suffered, as
one Romanus: who was of Noble Birth,
yet more noble in his Martyrdom, for he
desired his persecutors not to spare him
for his Nobility: it is not the blood of my
Progenitors, saith he, but Christian pro-
fession makes me noble: When they lan-
ced him with knives until the bones ap-
peared white: his eye lids torn with their
nails, his hair pulled from his face; the
Captain being astonished at his constan-
cy, commanded them to cease from tor-
ture: When was he brought out, and
scourged upon his old sores. his Tongue
plucked out by the roots: the Captain be-
ing more amazed to see him remain con-
stant still, commanded him to be brought
into Prison, and there to be strangled,
Take one example of a woman Martyr,
of which, there were many which were
very strong in the Christian faith, but one
Julitta by name. who being to be put into
the fire. spake unto other women that
stood by in this manner: Cease (quoth she)
to accuse the fragility of my kinsmen for,
are

are not we made after the Image of God,
as well as Men? God did not also think
us like womanen, in token of Infirmitie,
we are bone of his bone, in token we must
be strong in the liuing God: what bloody
persecutions was there in Queen Maries
day? and what a savage massacre was
there in France, in 1572. near the Prison
in Lyon? the blood run raking through
the streets into the River: In thirty
days space, there was an hundred thou-
sand perished Orphans, Widows, and in-
concealed Creatures, wandering about
without any Relief. And having shewed
you the cruel Persecutions of Gods Peo-
ple here on Earth, Now let the Reasons
why God suffers these things to fall on
his People, Psal. 97. 1. The Lord reigneth,
let the Earth rejoyce: It is well for his
People that he Reigneth; or else they
could never stand: One or two Holders
are able to Destroy a flock of Sheep:
what then would many Holders do a-
mongst Sheep, if there were not an o-
ver-ruling hand? God Orders and suf-
fers this, so that he may turn all to his
praise. Saul made habock of the Church.
Act 8. 3. 4. Therefore they that were scatter'd
went

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went every where preaching the Word; according to the Prophet Daniel. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. There appears as great a power in God, in preserving his Church, in the midst of so much Opposition, as there did appear in the preservation of the Three Children in the fiery furnace: the more we are cut down, the more still we are, saith Tertullian; The Blood of Martyrs, was the Seed of the Church: Pliny reports, That the Lilly is increased by the Juice that drops from it: So the Church, which is the Lilly, grows among Thorns, the very blood that falls from them, multiplies them; the sufferings of one, begets many to the truth. It is a Report of one Cecilia, a Virgin, that by her constancy, and Exhortation, before, and at her Martyrdom, was the means to convert 400 People. By Blood and Prayer, the Church converts the whole World, saith Luther. Besides God brings his people in afflictions, and then they are like the Stars that shine brightest in the darkest Night. Queen Elizabeth, when she was lockt up in close Prison, at first she was daunted, but after,

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afterwards, He brake forth into this speech, the skill of a Pilots unknown, but in a Tempest, the valour of a Captain is unseen but in a Battel; and the worth of a Christian both not appear but in time of tryal, and temptation: we read, Deut. 8 2. God led his people through the Wildernesse, to humble them and to provoke them. God knows before, but he would make themselves, and others, to know. Now having shewed you the many calamities and Afflictions that have followed, and have been laid upon his Church and people. and how Gods hand of Providence and Mercy, hath led them through all their troubles; and you see how patiently they took all their sufferings, and did, as it were, glory in the Cross of Christ; and not like many in these times, that if any losses or calamities fall upon them, it may be in their Estates, or Imprisonment. are ready to cry out with the Psalmist, Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more? hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Psal 77. No, the Lord is in his holy Temple? The Lords Throne is in Heaven, his eyes be
hold

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hold his Eye-lids; the Children of men, the Lord tryeth the righteous, but the wicked and him that loveth violence, the Lord hateth. Psalm 1. Let me tell you, God knows your sufferings, and what you suffer for: if it be for his sake, you are happy; they are meannes to wean you from this World, and as Chains to draw you the nearer to Heaven: Calamity is a good companion for a patient Soul, it will help you cast up your Accounts before God, how you have spent your time here on Earth, and what close sins have lain hid in your hearts, which may be the cause of your afflictions, which it may be, prosperity would never have put you in mind on: have a care, be not puff up in prosperity, nor be not cast down with calamity. Learn Saint Paul's lesson, I have learned (saith he) to be content in what state soever I am in, phil. 4. 11. Gods time is the best time for his people, to bring them out of all other trouble: he is not like a Forwardly Captain, to lead you on upon dangers, and there to leave you; No, when you think there is no hopes of relief, then God brings on his reserve, and leads you off with honour: therefore

let us learn now in this time of Breath-
ings of his church, to strive by all means
that lies in us, by the assistance of his
Spirit, to make good use of this time
while we have it. and let us not by this
peace we have now, lul our selves in secu-
rity, running on with the greatest throng
in all manner of sin and wickedness. in
back-sliding, and Apostacy, and Hypo-
cristie. I am afraid, that sin reigns
much in this Nation, and have no care of
those that sow pillows under your elbows
and make you believe you shall be Saints
if you follow them, and God will see no
evil in you: Have a care, Gods Eye sees
that his hand will punish this Nation,
without repentance. Can you account
your selves the children of God, that de-
light in Pride? No, his children are
cloathed with humility. It was the
Example of our Saviour & his Apostles,
if you will follow him, you must be hum-
ble & meek. Can you delight in covetous-
ness, and be his Disciples? Remember
Judas, who sold his Master for thirty pie-
ces. How many Judasses hath there been,
and are now that will do the like. The

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young man in the Gospel was content to follow Christ till he had him sell all that he had, and follow him ; I but he had rather part with Christ, then part from his Estate : So there are many since these times began, that have gotten such great Estates, that they had rather get more, then sell those they have to follow him, though they venture Soul and Body for them : But if a man gain an Estate, a Kingdom, may the whole World, and lose his Soul, his loss is greater then his gains, a little pleasure, for everlasting sorrow. But to conclude, Gods Eye from Heaven sees all our doings upon Earth ; he sees the cruelty of his enemies, and the suffering of his people. Therefore let me desire you once more, to remember in whose presence you are, and whose eye is upon you ; be not Christians outwardly, but Christians inwardly ; fly Hypocrisie, hate Idolatry, and beware of Heresie, and desire God to keep you in the good old way, which Christ, his Apostles, and like wise the blessed Martyrs, have left the same way behind them, by their rules and Doctrine for us to follow, being armed with

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with the whole Armour of God, that we may be able to resist in the evil day. and our loins girt about with Verity, having on the breast-plate of Righteousness, and our feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace, having the Shield of Faith, with the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; And then let us defend our selves against all our enemies, which are the World, the flesh, and the Devil; and let us not faint, nor be afraid, for Gods Eye is upon us, and will strengthen us: and though we have poverty here, we shall have Riches hereafter; for sorrow here, joy hereafter. Keep me O Lord (saith David) from those that have their Portions in this Life, Psal. 17. 14. Do with us what thou wilt here, so thou wilt but receive us hereafter: Give us a Crown of Thorns here, that we may have a Crown of Glory hereafter. And all for thy Son Christ Jesus sake who shed his precious Blood for all those that will lay hold of him by a true and lively Faith: Do concluding with the Prophet David's Advice, Psal. 97. 10. Ye that love the Lord hate evil, for he preserveth the Souls of his
Saints,

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Saints, he will deliver them from the hand of
the wicked, Light is shewn for the Righteous,
and Joy for the upright in heart : therefore
rejoyce ye Righteous in the Lord, and give
Thanks for his Holy Remembrance.

Written by *Charles Hammond.*



FINIS.

